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# GEORGE THOMPSON

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# GEORGE THOMPSON

PHILIP W. BOUCHARD\*

In 1973, Professor George Thompson relinquished a distinguished law teaching career at Ohio Northern University and embarked with us upon the challenge of transforming a small, unaccredited part-time institution into a first-rate national law school.

Aided by George's presence on the Western New England College Law School faculty, accreditation was achieved within a matter of only months and, according to the Chairman of the American Bar Association inspection team, Western New England College School of Law opened with the strongest faculty of any new law school in the United States.

Educated at St. Olaf's College and the University of Wisconsin, where he acquired a Master of Arts and law degree respectively, George rose from the private practice of law to become District Attorney, and later, Attorney General of the State of Wisconsin. He served his country in World War II in the European front where he was wounded in action. He took great pride in his Scandanavian heritage and was chosen to serve as a Fulbright scholar in the land of his ancestors, Iceland.

George's cultural pursuits were extraordinary. Whether a Shakespearean Festival in Canada or a new play in New York, George was simply oblivious to distance and would travel great distances for good theater. Likewise, he and his gracious wife, Dr. Marion Thompson, entertained the faculty in the "grand style." His friends, whether a college student or the Chief Justice of the Iceland Supreme Court, reflected the breadth and diversity of his cultural interests.

George represented the ultimate in collegiality. He was never too busy to lend a friendly ear. He always remembered, with a grateful note or gift, the smallest kindness tendered him. George was a fine person, a fine lawyer, and a gifted law professor. Above

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\* Professor of Law, Western New England College School of Law. A.B., Boston University, 1952; J.D., Boston University, 1957.

everything else, George was a caring and compassionate human being. He is missed dearly. We are richer for having known our "Viking" and we give thanks for that privilege.